

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 /070 W

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R 191631Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 145

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STUTTGART

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2128

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB, GW

SUBJECT: FIRST ARRESTS IN DRENKMANN CASE

REFS: A. USMISSION BERLIN 1803;

1. UNDINE ZUELKE, LUTHERAN CHURCH SOCIAL WORKER AT
BERLIN'S WOMEN'S PRISON AND WIFE OF A LUTHERAN
MINISTER, WAS ARRESTED NOV 16 BY BERLIN POLICE,
WHO HAVE NAMED HER AN ACCOMPLICE IN MURDER OF JUDGE
VON DRENKMANN AND SAY SHE DELIVERED MESSAGES FROM
IMPRISONED FEMALE ANARCHISTS TO GANG MEMBERS
OUTSIDE. FOLLOWING ZUELKE ARREST, A LUTHERAN
MINISTE WAS ARRESTED NOV 17 FRG AND BROUGHT
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TO BERLIN FOR QUESTIONING. PRESS HAS LINKED FRAU

ZUELKE TO BISHOP KURT SCHARF, HEAD OF LUTHERAN CHURCH IN BERLIN, AND POLICE HAVE TOLD US CONFIDENTIALLY THEIR INVESTIGATION MAY PROVE HIGHLY EMBARRASSING TO THE CHURCH.

2. MORGENPOST REPORTED BISHOP SCHARF ACCOMPANIED FRAU ZUELKE ON VISIT TO BAADER-MEINHOF MEMBERS IN PRISON OCT 26 AND THAT SHE ALSO ARRANGED ANOTHER SCHARF-MEINHOF MEETING. ACCORDING TO POLICE INFO BOTH WERE PRESENT AT MEETING WITH SEVERAL MINISTERS AND RADICAL DEFENSE LAWYER STROEBELE SHORTLY BEFORE DRENKMANN ASSASSINATION. OPINION WAS EXPRESSED AT MEETING THAT MORE DRASTIC ACTION IN SUPPORT OF RADICALS WAS NEEDED INSTEAD OF JUST DEMONSTRATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION OF LEAFLETS. POLICE SAY FRAU ZUELKE AND A FEW OTHERS MET LATER AT A RESTAURANT TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION, AFTER WHICH SHE AND PRISON CHAPLAIN VISITED ALL IMPRISONED FEMALE RADICALS. LAST OF THESE WAS MEINHOF, WHO GAVE FRAU ZUELKE A NOTE AND INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO DELIVER IT. POLICE BELIEVE NOTE CONTAINED OUTLINE OF PLAN TO KIDNAP DRENKMANN AND EVENTUALLY RESULTED IN HIS DEATH.

3. DEMONSTRATIONS OVER WEEKEND (REFTEL, PASSED WITHOUT INCIDENT, ALTHOUGH RUDI DUTSCHKE ADDRESSED TRIBUNAL MEETING SATURDAY BEFORE ATTENDING FUNERAL OF RADICAL HOLGER MEINS MONDAY IN HAMBURG. NOV 19 TRIBUNAL APPARENTLY CANCELED. POLITICAL PARTIES, TRADE UNIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST RADICAL VIOLENCE IN CONJUNCTION WITH MEMORIAL SERVICE NOV 21. POLICE ARE PREPARING FOR RADICAL COUNTERDEMONSTRATIONS BUT NONE KNOWN SO FAR.

4. AS OF NOV 18 THERE WERE 18 PRISONERS ON HUNGER STRIKE IN BERLIN, OF WHOM 11 HARD-CORE RADICALS AND 7 SYMPATHIZERS: 9 OF FORMER BEING FED ARTIFICIALLY. ALL LISTED IN GOOD OR SATISFACTORY CONDITION EXCEPT IRENE GOERGENS, WHO WAS TRANSFERRED TO HOSPITAL BRIEFLY DURING WEEKEND. ALTHOUGH SHE REFUSED

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PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, DOCTORS DECIDED SHE WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO BE RETURNED TO PRISON. SELIGMANN

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